

districts named in this subsection, except the western district of Michigan, occurring 5 years or more after the confirmation date of the judge named to fill a temporary judgeship created by this Act, shall not be filled. The first vacancy in the office of district judge in the western district of Michigan, occurring after December 1, 1995, shall not be filled."

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I move to reconsider the vote by which the bill was passed.

Mr. BIDEN. I move to lay that motion on the table.

The motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, on behalf of the leader, I want to announce that there will be no further votes tonight.

#### MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that there now be a period for the transaction of routine morning business with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. FORD addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Kentucky.

#### PRESIDENTIAL BUDGETS

Mr. FORD. Mr. President, I hear all this talk about the budget every day and everybody says the same thing. We could probably just have a tape recording of what we said yesterday, and we get the same thing again today.

Senators act like this is the first budget that has ever been brought before the House or the Senate submitted by a President that has been voted on that did not get any votes.

The distinguished Senator from Mississippi talked about 96 to nothing or 99 to nothing. Remember Ronald Reagan's 425 to nothing in the House. I believe that is correct. I see him shaking his head. So there have been a lot of budgets that have been dead on arrival. Even the Republicans have voted against a Republican President's budget. So this is not new. Senators act like this is the first time for it to ever happen, this is the worst fellow that has ever been up there.

If turning budgets down makes a bad President, then we have had some Republicans up there who had their budgets turned down, so they were not very good Presidents that we are now bragging about.

One statement has been made here that we ought to quit this smoke and mirrors, and we ought to sit down and we ought to do it rather than beating up on the President. You have responsibility; I have responsibility; we all have responsibility to try to get it worked out. We take CBO figures. We take CBO figures and we get letters from the Director of CBO which state the Republican budget is not in balance by \$105 billion.

We did not select that chairman. The majority selected that chairman. That chairman sent us the letter, and we now have it, which says the budget that is being proposed is \$105 billion short.

So what I wish to do, Mr. President, is not stop the Pell grants for my State. I do not want to reduce or eliminate the help for 55,000 higher education students in my State. We are in a global market. We are in global competition. Education is the great equalizer. But oh, no, we are increasing, you hear from the other side, Pell grants by \$100. That may be true, but you are eliminating—if you are not eligible for \$600, you are eliminated from the rolls. So in Kentucky we lose 6,000 Pell grants next year alone—next year alone.

So it just is a little bit disconcerting to me to hear all of these things, and the public ought to be quite confused, quite confused because you get a CBO letter with a gold seal on it that says the budget is balanced, and the next day you get one that says it is not—from the same office, signed by the same person as it relates to whether Social Security is in the trust fund and loaned or it is in the general fund. It cannot be both places. You can say what you want to and argue all day. I do not believe you can find a jury that would say in this particular case that it is both. You can borrow from it and spend it, but the assets are over in Social Security. It cannot be used twice. And so we do not have it.

So the point I am trying to make here, Mr. President, is that we can take care of Medicare without cutting it \$270 billion; \$89 billion is enough. We do not need to put the middle-income people in a problem, and the middle-income people, \$35,000 to \$70,000, is where I would say they are as it relates to Medicaid and nursing homes because you are going to run out of money. That is going to fall on the shoulders of the sons and daughters of the \$35,000 to \$70,000 income families at some point when their parents are in a nursing home on Medicaid and the phone rings about the latter part of July, 1st of August saying, "Come and get dad; come and get mom; we are out of money."

And you change the rules in this bill on regulations on nursing homes. You change the rules as they relate to regulations on nursing homes. Let States do it. The reason the Federal Government is in the business of regulating nursing homes is because the States had it. And the statement has been made, OK, just sedate the elderly; you can handle them easier; then you have fewer employees, you will need fewer employees.

Well, that is just one giant indication that we are headed back to the same place we were when we had to take over the regulation of the nursing homes.

One of the things that we see coming down the pike is hiding the sale of power marketing administrations in

the House bill on page about 470-something where it is now the Secretary of Energy, Interior and Army cannot sell PMA's, but in the House bill you repeal those three and then you instruct those three Secretaries to have a report on how to sell PMA's by the end of next year. And now you have put it in the appropriations bill, and those that are opposed to the sale of PMA's, you better go look at the appropriations bill, Interior bill, and see what they have done there and refuse to sign the conference report until the PMA sale is in that appropriations bill.

I see the Senator looking at his watch. I will quit any time he wants me to.

I yield the floor.

Mr. THOMAS addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wyoming.

Mr. THOMAS. I would have looked at my watch sooner.

Mr. FORD. I would not have quit sooner, though.

#### FOUR CHANGES TO BE MADE

Mr. THOMAS. I want to talk a little bit about the business that we are approaching this week. It seems to me it is the most important opportunity that we have had in 25 years, and the Senator and the previous speakers talked about the reasons why we cannot make these changes and the reasons why this is wrong and the reasons why it has to be some other way. The real test is that we have been talking that way for 25 years, and the results speak for themselves.

We find all kinds of reasons why we cannot balance the budget. So what has the result been? A \$5 trillion debt. It has resulted in the interest on the debt being the largest single line item in the budget. But we have been talking that same talk for 25 years: Cannot do it.

I wish to talk a little bit about why we should do it and why we have the greatest opportunity we have had in a very long time to do the same, to complete at least four things that I think most of us, particularly most of us that are new here, apparently came here to do, and it is the first time there has been a chance to do that, and I wish to talk about the benefits of doing it.

They are four changes that need to be made and four changes that can be made in the next couple of weeks, fundamental changes, not messing around the edges, not talking about change but never doing it. All of us have watched this Government for a long time. Most of us have watched this Congress talk about it; we want change. The fact is, it has not changed. The fact is, the debt has continued to grow. So we have a chance to make some fundamental changes, to not only turn around the arithmetic but to turn around the morality and the fiscal responsibility of making this Government sound within. Maybe more importantly than that, shaping the Government in the way that you would like to